

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the original specification as filed on February 10, 2004, as follows. The references to page and line numbers refer to Applicant's original filed application.

Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 10-14 with the following paragraph:

The present invention relates generally to flashlights, and in particular to a flashlight adapted for convenient use in conjunction with other hand-held implements, such as firearms, or in conjunction with activities requiring the use of ~~ones~~ one's hands.

Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 15-23 with the following paragraph:

By way of background, a number of flashlights or flashlight holders are known that are designed for use in combat or self-defense situations. Several of these holders and flashlights are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,270,231, 5,848,834, 5,167,446, 4,542,447, 5,642,932, 5,363,285, 5,556,003, 5,345,368, 6,023,875, 5,752,633, 5,533,657, and 5,593,074. An additional such flashlight ~~devices~~ device is disclosed in EP0484891.

Replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 17-20 with the following paragraph:

Figures 5 and 5A and 5B provide cutaway cross-sectional views of potential rotatable connections between transverse members and ~~[[a]]~~ lightboxes of flashlights of the invention.

Replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 8-12 with the following paragraph:

~~Figure 9 provides plan views A and B~~ Figures 9A and 9B are views of cooperating surface features on the transverse member (view A) and handle portion (view B) portion.

respectively, shown in Figure 8, providing a rotatable/locking mechanism using meshable locking plates.

Replace the paragraph on page 10, line 3 to page 11, line 4 with the following paragraph:

Handle portion 22 includes a lower end 28 and an upper end 29, and a central portion 30 spanning between the lower end 28 and upper end 29. Central portion 30 can if desired have external adaptations to improved the ergonomic character of the handle portion 22. For example, central portion 30 may include one or more convex or concave sections. In one embodiment, as illustrated in Figure 1, central portion 30 includes an inwardly-facing (toward the lightbox 21) convex portion 31 adapted to ergonomically cooperate with the palm of the hand in a firing position (see e.g. Figure 3). As also shown in Figure 1, handle portion 22 can incorporate a strap extending inwardly from handle portion 22 and through which the user's hand can be placed while holding the flashlight 20. As shown in Figure 3, in the firing position, the handle portion 22 is grasped in a hand of the user, the transverse portion 23 extends overtop the hand, and the lightbox 21 extends down the back side of the hand. If desired, handle portion 22 can be covered with or made of a material with a relatively high coefficient of friction compared to other portions of the flashlight to improve gripping properties. For example, handle portion 22 may be covered with a polymeric sleeve, including, e.g. an elastomeric sleeve such as a neoprene sleeve.

Replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 9-23 with the following paragraph:

Figures 2D and 2E provide cutaway side and left end views corresponding to those of Figures 2A and 2B, except the flashlight device has a modified front face in which a lip 24A" or other projection extends upwardly from the face 24A', such that it overlies the front face of transverse member 23A. As well, transverse member 23A has a rounded end 23A' 23A". In this manner, the inward rotation of lightbox 21A is restricted by contact between lip 24A" and the front face of transverse member 23A, but lightbox 21A can be freely rotated outwardly, and has about 180 degrees (180°) of rotational freedom, so that the light can be positioned to a forward

lighting position as described herein, and a position reversed from that shown in Figures 2D and 2E to provide more effective use in either hand.

Replace the paragraph on page 16, line 16 to page 17, line 13 with the following paragraph:

With reference now to Figure 5 in conjunction with Figure 1, shown is one potential embodiment of the invention for connecting the lightbox 21 to the transverse member 23. In particular, in the illustrated arrangement a number of indexed or predetermined positions are defined between the lightbox 21 and the transverse member 23. For example, cutouts or other depressions 45 may be provided within an outer side surface of the lightbox 21 at its upper end, and a cooperating member 46 such as a ball may be provided on the transverse member 23 for cooperating with depressions 45 located around the circumference of lightbox 21. Cooperating member 46 can for example be biased toward the lightbox 21 with a spring 47 or other biasing device, to provide an appropriate level of resistance to hold lightbox 21 in a position defined by cutouts 45, but which resistance can be overcome with sufficient force to move the lightbox 21 to an alternate indexed position. Additional ~~protuberances~~ protuberances 48 can be provided around in the inner surface of the transverse member connection to assist in the indexing function as well.

Replace the paragraph on page 17, line 14 to page 18, line 10 with the following paragraph:

With reference now to Figure 5A in conjunction with Figures 2A-2E, shown is an illustration of another manner of rotatably connecting lightbox 21A to a transverse member 23A. In this embodiment, the ball 46A and spring 47A combination for the detent positions is received within an aperture in the lower surface of transverse member 23A. Cutouts 45A or other indentations for cooperating with the ball 46A are then located upon an upper surface of lightbox 21A. A hollow bushing 49A is received within a shouldered bore in transverse member 23A, and a cooperating threaded member 49B is received through bushing ~~49B~~ 49A and threaded into a corresponding bore in the upper wall of lightbox 21A. A rotatable connection is thereby

provided. As shown, threaded member 49B can be hollow or otherwise include a thru-bore 44A so that wires 41A and 42A can pass through the connection. Wires 41A and 42A can then, if desired, pass through an internal opening or bore within transverse member 23A (Figure 5A, shown in phantom) for connection to a switch as described hereinabove.

Replace the paragraph on page 18, line 11 to page 19, line 13 with the following paragraph:

With reference generally to Figures 1, 2A-2E, and 5 and 5A ~~and 5B~~, any number of indexing positions for the lightbox 21,21A can be provided. In one embodiment, light box 21,21A will be restricted to ~~360-degrees~~ 360° of rotation or less, for example ~~180-degrees~~ 180° of rotation, having multiple defined indexed positions. Restricting rotation of the lightbox 21,21A will assist in preventing undue twisting of leads 41,42,41A,42A in the simple design illustrated, where the leads are fixed or otherwise tend to rotate along with the lightbox 21,21A. Of course, other circuitry or wiring designs could be adopted to address this problem as well, including for example the use of a rotatable electrical connection. For example, use may be made of conductive metallic components such as metal disks or rings that provide electrical contact from the handle and switch to the light box. The two components, one wired to the switch and one connected to the light box, would remain in constant contact with ~~[[the]]~~ one another. The component wired to the switch would remain fixed while constantly making contact with the other component that would be connected to the light-box. The component wired to the light-box would rotate, for example ~~180-degrees~~ 180°. Another rotatable electrical design could incorporate a wired, spring-loaded pin which would make contact with a metallic component connected to the light box.

Replace the paragraph on page 19, line 14 to page 20, line 12 with the following paragraph:

In a preferred design, lightbox 21,21A will have indexed positions spaced about ~~90~~ degrees 90° from one another. With reference to the orientation of the devices 20,20A as shown in ~~Figure~~ Figures 1 and 2, these positions may be defined with the light source 25,25A facing as

shown (e.g. as used in a firearm firing position), ~~90-degrees~~ 90° clockwise therefrom (thus facing directly away from handle 22,22A for "forward lighting" (see Figure 3A), and ~~180~~ 180° clockwise from the illustrated position. This latter position allows the device 20,20A to be similarly used in either the left or right hand during firing or other manual activities. In this regard, in addition to or as an alternative to indexed positions wherein light source 25,25A is directed at a ~~90-degree~~ 90° angle relative to the axis of transverse member 23,23A, indexed positions may be provided angled slightly inwardly from ~~90-degrees~~ 90° (see e.g. Figure 6) so that the light beam from light source 25,25A will be more directly aimed at a target during a firing position. The angle in this situation will vary depending upon the anticipated target distance, and upon the useful range of the light source 25,25A.

Replace the paragraph on page 20, line 13 to page 21, line 13 with the following paragraph:

With reference now to Figures 10-12 in connection with Figures 1 and 2, illustrated is a holster 50 for use in connection with a flashlight 20,20A of the invention. Holster 50 generally includes a member 51 for connection to the belt of a user, for example by clipping on the belt or having the belt string through the member 51. Holster 50 also generally includes a receiving portion 52 for receiving the lightbox 21,21A of the flashlight device 20,20A. In particular, preferred holster device 50 includes a first end 53 and a second end 54, which serve to cover the upper and lower surfaces of the lightbox 21,21A and help an alignment of the flashlight 20,20A during a holstering function. Receiving portion 52 includes at least one cutout portion, and preferably a plurality of cutout portions along the body providing openings 55 for receiving the light source 25,25A and lens 26,26A of the lightbox 21,21A, so that the flashlight 20,20A may be used to provide illumination even when holstered (see e.g. Figures 11 and 12). Preferably, holster device 50 will include at least one member 56 located between ends 53 and 54 extending sufficiently up and potentially around lightbox 21,21A to retain flashlight 20,20A ~~and in~~ in holster 50 by gravitational force and/or by friction or snap fit.

Replace the paragraph on page 24, line 14 to page 25, line 3 with the following paragraph:

Figure 15 provides an appliance 70 in which a red lens is incorporated in a slidable fashion. Appliance 70 includes a first member 71 having a slot therein and an opening 72, and a second member 73 slidably received in the slot. Second member 73 includes a red lens 74, wherein sliding second member 73 into first member 71 exposes the red lens 74 in the opening 72. An appliance such as appliance 70 can be built into, fixedly attached or removably attached (e.g. using a clinging mechanism similar to that shown in Figures 16-18 below) to a flashlight device such as 20 or 20A (Figures 1 and 2) with the opening 72 positioned over lens ~~25 or 25A~~ 26 or 26A. Selective use of the red lens 74 is thereby enabled.

Replace the paragraph on page 25, lines 4-22 with the following paragraph:

Figures 16-18 illustrate another red lens appliance 80 of and for use in the invention. Appliance 80 has a body 81 including a double-walled front panel 82. Panel 82 defines a slot between its two walls for slidably receiving a red lens ~~83~~ 87 (shown partially in phantom). Panel 82 also defines a lens opening 83 and an elongate slot 84. A manual slider member ~~85~~ 88 attached to the red lens ~~83~~ 87 is exposed through the elongate slot 84, for manual operation to selectively position the red lens into and out of the lens opening 83. Body 81 also includes deformable members 85 and 86 which can be deformed so as to provide a mechanical fit such as a snap or friction fit around a cylindrical or other correspondingly configured portion of a lightbox such as 20 or 20A (see also Figures 1 and 2). In this fashion a user can both selectively connect and disconnect the appliance 80 with the flashlight, and selectively use or not use the red lens ~~82~~ 87 when the appliance 80 is connected.

Replace the paragraph on page 26, lines 1-17 with the following paragraph:

With reference to Figure 19, shown is another holster appliance 90 of and for use in the present invention. Appliance 90 includes a clip portion 91 for attachment to a belt or other similar structure of a user, that is attached to a body 92 adapted for providing a mechanical fit such as a snap or friction fit around a cylindrical or other correspondingly configured portion of a lightbox such as 20,20A (see also Figures 1 and 2). Body 92 thus can include at least one deformable member 93 configured to fit around and cling to a lightbox such as 20,20A. Desirably, body 92 can be designed so as not to cover or block the lens and light source of such lightboxes, so that the flashlight can be effectively used for illumination while worn attached to the belt of a user. As well, the attachment of body 92 to clip ~~portion~~ portion 91 can be via a rotatable connection, such as at 94, so as to provide flexibility in use.